

Andrew Jackson to Andrew Stevenson, November 10, 1830, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO ANDREW STEVENSON.

Private

Washington, November 10, 1830.

My D'r sir, The Secretary of State has submitted to me (confidentially) yours, to him of the 8th instant. Your own reflections cannot fail to satisfy you of the impropriety of his entering into unofficial explanations upon the points referred to. In addition to the communications received by the Department of State from Mr. Randolph at St. Petersburg, one addressed to myself from him at London (the only one from that place) has been recd., From which the following is an extract "I trust my dear, Sir, that you will excuse this hurried letter written in pain and sickness. By the next Packet Ship you shall hear more fully. I purpose going to the continent to try and renovate my shattered system. If the season were a fortnight earlier I would embark at once for the United States—as it is, I shall if it please god return to St Petersburg (with your approbation) in the spring, and to the U. S. in September next, if not sooner."

Mr Randolphs communication is altogether affectionate and in an suitable spirit. Every step that has been taken by the Executive branch of the Government in relation to his mission has passed under my own observation, and by them he has received as he shall unto the end receive, perfect and strict Justice. His friends, accustomed to the misrepresentations which his political opponents have always been in the habit to indulge

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in, respecting him, should wait with patience the result, trusting as I do, that it will never appear that he has been wanting in duty.

By mr Randolphs original instructions the state of his constitution and the delapidations to which his long career of public service had exposed it, was taken into consideration, and he had a discretion given to him to leave St Petersburg and spend the winter in a milder climate if he should be satisfied that, that indulgence would work no prejudice to the business of his mission.

The reservation of privacy imposed upon this letter is only to be considered as imperative in regard to newspapers and indiscreet publications of its contents. Whenever it is clear and, in the exercise of a sound discretion, necessary to communicate its contents in relation to facts you are at liberty to make it, trusting to your discretion not to do so on slight grounds, and much less to repel mere newspaper slander which is not of a character to injure any one.

I am sir with great respect yr mo. obdt. Servt.